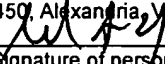


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(Signature of person mailing correspondence)

Mark A. Hixon

(Typed name of person mailing correspondence)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JOHANNES MENZEL

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Group Art Unit:

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Filing Under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the DO/EO/US  
off PCT/EP2004/005773 filed 28 May 2004

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Examiner:

}

For: METHOD FOR REMOVING ACID GASES  
FROM PRESSURIZED NATURAL GAS  
THAT IS CONTAMINATED WITH ACID  
GAS COMPOUNDS AND RECOVERING  
THE REMOVED ACID GASES AT AN  
INCREASED PRESSURE LEVEL

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Attorney Docket 1-17145

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October 25, 2005

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Sir:

Prior to the first Office Action and before examination, please amend the application being filed concurrently herewith under 35 U.S.C. 371 as follows: